ii) 6 MW project based on production of Refuse Derived Fuel obtained from Municipal solid Waste at Vijayawada-Working Satisfactorily.

iii) 5 MW project based on production of biogas obtained from Municipal solid Waste at Lucknow-Plant shut down due to operational problems.

B. PROJECTS BASED ON OTHER URBAN WASTES

i) 1 MW project based on biogas obtained from cattle dung at Haebowal, Ludhiana-Working Satisfactorily.

ii) 0.5 MW project base on biogas obtained from Sewage treatment plant at Surat Working Satisfactorily.

iii) 150 KW plant based on biogas obtained from vegetable wastes and wastes from slaughterhouse at Vijayawada-Working Satisfactorily.

iv) 300 KW based on biogas obtained from vegetable wastes at Chennai-Under commissioning.

Progress of Road Projects

*27. SHRI RAASHID ALVI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that inspite of Prime Minister's thrust on infrastructure, road projects in the country are not progressing well;

(b) if so, whether progress report on all major highways upgrade plans are marked red, with work either at a complete standstill or moving at snail's pace, way behind schedule;

(c) whether the biggest problem seems to be land acquisition, followed by contractural failures;

(d) if so, what are the other main reasons; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to remove these hurdles

and to what extent present Government have been able to expedite the completion of these projects at the scheduled time?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Overall progress of the National Highway projects in the country is satisfactory. However, there are cases where individual projects are progressing slowly.

(c) and (d) The main reasons for delay of some of the projects are given below:

(i) delay in acquisition of land;

(ii) delay in environmental clearance;

(iii) delay in clearances for railway overbridges (ROBs);

(iv) very heavy and continuous rainfall in some parts of the country during the current year;

(v) law and order and insurgency problems in some States;

(vi) delay in shifting of utilities; and

(vii) poor performance of some contractors.

(e) Regular monitoring of financial and physical progress of works is carried out with a view to removing bottlenecks. In addition, the following steps are also being taken by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to expedite the implementation of National Highway Development Project:

(i) State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highway Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc.

(ii) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-ministerial and Central-States issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearances of railway overbridges etc.

(iii) To expedite the construction of railway overbridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to coordinate with Ministry of Railways and a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s Indian Railway Construction Company for construction of ROBs, which will facilitate early clearances of these projects.

(iv) Action has been taken against non performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in the existing contracts.

(v) In seven projects, the contracts have been terminated because of poor performance of contractors.

With the above steps, 6222 kms. of National Highways have been completed upto 31st October 2005 on Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East-West corridors, Port Connectivity and other stretches entrusted to NHAI.

Production/Sale of Khadi Products

†*28. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether production/sale of Khadi products in the country has declines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken or being taken by Government to raise the production/sale of Khadi in the country;

(d) the quantum of production and sale raised due to the steps taken so far and the basis of growth in the future; and

(e) the number of employment opportunities created in the Khadi industry during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) On account of inadequate attention by Khadi institutions/producers to production and sales planning, particularly quality and marketability of product, and worsening of working capital availability due to high levels of unsold stocks and delay in receipt or rebates admissible to them, there was decline in the production and sales of khadi and khadi products during 1998-99 to 2001-02, as detailed below:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.